

REMARKS

In view of the fact that allowable subject matter has been indicated to be present in the case, this amendment is submitted in an earnest effort to advance the case to issue without delay.

1. The priority claim acknowledgment in paragraph 12 of PTOL 326 is appreciated.

2. The Examiner's indication that claims 13 to 17 contain allowable subject matter is also appreciated. Claim 13 has been placed in proper form and as a result outright allowance of claims 13 to 17 is in order.

3. Wherever the subject matter of claim 1 appears, the claims have been amended to emphasize that the "inwardly" is with respect to the interior of the vehicle. In addition, the error as to the direct connection has been corrected. Of course, the bottom plate is without a direct connection to the floorboard (page 4, lines 6 and 18 or the last line of page 8 of the specification).

4. Claims 1 through 12 remain in the case and, since the configuration of the edge (longitudinal with respect to the vehicle), the disconnect between the bottom plate and the floorboard and the one piece nature of the bottom plate have been clearly set forth in claim 1, WILLIAMS Patent 5,533,781 is no longer applicable under 35 USC 102. If there is a bent edge in WILLIAMS it is transverse, etc.

5. Claims 1 to 12 are deemed to define invention over WILLIAMS as applied under 35 USC 103 alone or in combination with the secondary art, for example TASDEMIROGLU Patent 4,664,967 or IKEDA et al Patent 6,114,014 or OHAYON Patent 5,866,839.

In WILLIAMS a structure of welded thin plates supported by a support structure (30) is provided and covered with a fiber material. The covering is at the edges and not in the middle of the vehicle. It is provided with a bent armor plate at the right and left sides and only a small air gap is provided which is explicitly described as having a width of 1.6 to 1.8 inch. From FIG. 2 this configuration is visible and it is described at col. 3, lines 36 through 58. With the system of the invention, the dynamic buckling is completely isolated from the floor of the vehicle. For this the longitudinal bending edge is provided and a sufficient space between the floorboard and the armoring plate is required so


that on the one hand the dynamic buckling is limited and on the other, the buckled armor plate will not reach the floorboard.

In the reference, there is no longitudinal edge of any kind and the armor plate is so close to the overlying structure that practically is guaranteed that bucking of the armor plate will effect the overlying structure. The main reference, therefore, does not suggest claim 1 or any claim dependent thereon. The main reference, therefore, does not suggest claim 1 or any claim dependent thereon.

Furthermore, each of the references applied by the Examiner in combination with WILLIAMS has been examined to see if they contribute anything to the longitudinal bending edge issue or the spacing of the armor plate from the floorboard or overlying structure. That they do not. Accordingly, claim 1 must be considered to be allowable over WILLIAMS as taken with each of the secondary references here. It is true that the secondary references disclose a number of features including screw attachments and the like, but since claim 1 is clearly allowable the claims in this case which depend therefrom and included by reference must be allowed as well.

Claims 1 to 12 are thus deemed to be allowable with claims 13 through 17, previously indicated to contain allowable subject matter and an early notice to that effect is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,  
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